

Date: November 10, 2014

To: Thomas J. Bonfield – City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson – Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin G. Williams – Director of Public Works

Subject: Mr. Dave Rush – PAC 1 Citizen – Concern Over S. Briggs Avenue

The Department of Public Works has had previous discussions about the condition of dirt streets within PAC 1, including S. Briggs Avenue, and the process associated with paving the dirt streets in this PAC. These discussions have been held with both Ms. Vivian McCoy and Mr. David Rush. The focus of our last meeting (May 1, 2013) with Ms. McCoy and Mr. Rush was the paving of S. Briggs Avenue.

S. Briggs Avenue is a gravel roadway currently maintained by the City as such. In January of 2012 a petition was requested for the improvement of S. Briggs Avenue, from Angier Avenue southward to the southernmost Kate Street intersection. This covers a distance of approximately 600 linear feet. The petition was issued to the sponsors, Brandon Timblin and Mr. Rush of Always Buying Scrap, Inc. located at 2210 Kate Street, that same month. In the review of S. Briggs Avenue, it was determined that a curb, gutter, and paving improvement (as opposed to ribbon paving) would be the best alternative for this roadway; and the petition was issued as such. After several months staff contacted the sponsors as to the petition status. The sponsors advised staff that they were no longer pursuing the petition. It was deleted from the petition system in September 2012. Mr. Rush requested, and received, a second petition for this same road on April 8, 2013. As that petition was not returned to Public Works, it was deleted August 26, 2014.

The average construction cost estimates for the improvement of an existing gravel street to a curb, gutter, and paved street is \$350.00 per linear foot and for the ribbon paving of a gravel street is \$275.00 per linear foot. These construction costs could be subject to change through inflation and material cost increases, and do not include design costs, rights of way acquisition, and storm water mitigation costs.

Based on the \$350.00 per linear foot construction estimate, the approximate cost to improve S. Briggs Ave. is around \$210,000.00. Again, this cost does not include any necessary rights-of-way acquisition, design costs, storm water mitigation costs, and such.

Public Works staff has previously explained to Ms. McCoy and Mr. Rush that should this project be ordered through either the petition or Enabling Act Authority process, the abutting properties would be subject to an assessment based on the road frontage of each property. The current assessment rate for curb, gutter, and paving is \$ 45.00 per front foot. This is assessed on both sides of the street.

There are currently 182 streets or street segments, totaling 19.77 miles in the City that are unpaved. Of this total there are 35 streets or street segments, totaling 4.35 miles, of unpaved streets in PAC 1, including S. Briggs Avenue.

Based on these average per foot construction costs, the estimated cost to improve the existing City maintained gravel streets (19.77 miles) would range between approximately \$28,706,040.00 and \$36,534,960.00. The estimated construction cost to improve the existing gravel roads in PAC 1 (4.35 miles) would range between \$6,316,200.00 and \$8,038,800.00.

The most recent gravel street improved in PAC 1 was Harvard Avenue, completed in 2011. There are currently nine (9) street paving projects in queue (via the petition process) that have been ordered by City Council. Two of these streets (Winburn Avenue and Amber Place) are located in PAC 1. Improvements on this ordered list are currently waiting for funding for construction.

Winburn Avenue has been ordered improved as a curb, gutter, and paved street (the ribbon paving option was not available at the time of that petition and ordering), and Amber Place has also been ordered as a curb, gutter, and paved improvement due to narrow rights of way issues. A portion of the expended construction costs for ordered improvements are recouped through the assessment process. The current assessment rates are \$45.00 per front foot (assessed on each side) for curb, gutter, and paving improvements, and \$32.00 per front foot (again, assessed on each side) for ribbon paved streets.

Public Works has previously provided all of the information requested by Ms. McCoy and Mr. Rush about the options that are available to pave the dirt streets within PAC 1; however Public Works has not been able to identify a satisfactory resolution to the S. Briggs issue for Mr. Rush, nor a satisfactory resolution for the remaining unpaved streets to the residents of PAC 1.